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RURAL AREAS
DEVELOPMENT

RAD

NEWSLETTER

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WATERSHED PROJECT IS ENDING DROUGHT IN DUCK CREEK VALLEY'S ECONOMY

By utilizing a watershed project to reshape their land and water resources, the people of Duck Creek Valley, Ohio, are attracting new industry and vacationers.



New homes, a new airport, a golf course, a highway, a nursing home, an agricultural research center, recreational areas and a new hotel are recent additions to the area's economy attributed to a watershed project developed by local people, with financial and technical help from USDA's Soil Conservation Service. In addition, the project provides flood protection and municipal and industrial water supplies for three towns.

When completed, the project will return \$1.40 in benefits for every dollar spent. Estimated total cost is \$3.7 million, \$2.5 million is Federal money, the rest State and local.

OREGON STATE U GIVES RURAL TOWNS DEVELOPMENT AID

Small towns often can't afford to hire development specialists to spot development opportunities and plan how to exploit them.

So the Oregon State University Cooperative Extension Service plans to station development specialists at various locations in the State for the use of nearby small towns. The aim will be to work closely with local Chambers of Commerce and other development organizations. This will help smaller communities grow, in pace, with larger communities. Money for the proposal will be sought from the Higher Education Act.

ALABAMA TOWN'S NEW INLAND DOCKS EXPECTED TO BRING \$2,000,000 PAYROLL

Docks on the Tombigbee River will give a big boost to Jackson, Alabama (population 4,959) and surrounding counties.

The State of Alabama built the docks at a cost of \$300,000. The Mayor of Jackson said the expansion of old industry and the new industry attracted to the town by the docks should increase Jackson's payroll by \$2 million.



Over 1 million acres of timber in four adjacent counties will be opened to markets because the docks provide easy access to inexpensive transportation. A Chicago firm plans to purchase 2.4 million board feet of lumber monthly in the area and barge it to Illinois.

The Rural Electrification Administration is financing a multi-million dollar steam plant being built by the Alabama Electric Cooperative of Andalusia. This plant, scheduled for completion in 1968, will provide electricity for rural customers of several rural electric distribution cooperatives in southern Alabama and part of Florida. Thousands of tons of coal will be brought to the plant by the river.

A major paper company with a plant near the docks, employing 200, has announced plans to expand its pulp and paper operation to employ 400 people.

NEW PUBLICATION LISTS ADVANCEMENT PROGRAMS

Everyone wants to advance, and here is a booklet that tells what the Federal government has to offer for both community and individual advancement -- Federal Programs for Individual and Community Advancement, Agriculture Handbook No. 312.

The booklet identifies programs that were enacted to help you, your local development organization, or your elected public officials to:

- *finance industrial plants and business expansions
- *build water and sewer systems
- *improve schools
- *expand health services
- *construct libraries and community centers
- *develop outdoor recreation facilities
- *plan for orderly community growth

It also lists some of the major programs individuals can use to better prepare themselves for the new jobs and improved living conditions that are generated by community development activities. These include programs of job training, educational loans, home construction, youth activities, etc.

If you would like a free copy, write: Editor, RAD Newsletter, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250.

VISTA VOLUNTEERS TO SPEND SUMMER IN APPALACHIA

Five hundred college students are spending their summer this year fighting poverty. They are stationed in small communities in Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia and Tennessee.

The Office of Economic Opportunity's new VISTA Associates program which extends from June 15 to August 20, takes advantage of the talents of college students who could not enlist for a full year.

After a 10 day training program, the volunteers started remedial reading, recreation, cultural enrichment and community programs in their assigned areas.

The volunteers were invited by the communities where they are serving. After talking with the Appalachian Volunteer's staff, the towns people outlined the kind of program they wanted and elected a council to work with the students.

GROWING QUAIL FOR RESTAURANTS

A bird in a happy gourmet will be worth a whole new industry in the town of Geiger, Alabama.

John Stuart of Sumter County, Alabama has been growing quail for a hunting preserve for several years. After getting hundreds of requests for birds from neighbors and customers around the country, he became interested in raising them for profit.

After visiting several quail farms in the Southeast, he checked with B. B. Williamson, Jr., Sumter County Extension chairman for Auburn University, to get help in finding a market.

The Cooperative Extension Service's Rural Resource Development Specialist contacted a buyer in a northern city. The buyer threw a special luncheon for 12 catering service buyers. He ordered 36 birds from Stuart -- 12 freshly killed, 12 frozen for two weeks, and 12 frozen for more than 30 days.

To equip his birds for the taste test, Stuart sent proven recipes from Auburn University Cookbooks.

"Quail is just like any other food. If it isn't properly prepared it won't taste good," Stuart said.



The luncheon was a success, and now the economy of Geiger and surrounding areas should get plenty of nourishment. The gourmets have agreed to buy 500 thousand birds a year. However, Stuart believes this figure could be raised to 1 million birds annually.

Farmers in the area will raise the birds. People will have to be hired for processing and packaging operations, and the grain for bird feed will be grown locally.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WILL BE GIVEN SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT HELP

In addition to the usual obstacles the rural poor have to face in finding a job, the Spanish-American has a cultural barrier and sometimes a language barrier to overcome.

Operation SER (Services, Employment and Redevelopment), operating under a \$362,450 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor and the Office of Economic Opportunity was designated to help their special problems.

SER is operated by Jobs for Progress, Inc. This is a non-profit organization sponsored by the League of United Latin American Citizens and the American G. I. Forum. It will concentrate in achieving full employment for Spanish-Americans in Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.



There will be Job Progress Centers in all five states operated under a central office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which is being set up now. All the centers are expected to be open for business in November.

There will be a central pool for information on skilled Spanish-Americans. If an employer in Texas wants to hire an electrician, the office may locate one in Oakland, California, and help him to move his family to Texas.

The centers will also offer pre-vocational training. There will be literacy training to get Spanish-Americans ready to take vocational training classes. A man can't learn to be a TV repairman if he can't read the manual.

OUTDOOR RECREATION -- HOW TO FIND IT, HOW TO FINANCE IT

Like to know where to find outdoor recreation areas, or what help is available to start you in the recreation business?

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of the Interior, has three new publications that give the answers. For copies, write Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402 for:

"Guides to Outdoor Recreation Areas and Facilities" -- It lists directories published by private, State, and Federal organizations that tell where to camp, canoe, fish, and hunt. Price -- 20 cents.

"Federal Assistance in Outdoor Recreation" -- Tells what government loans, other financial assistance, and technical help is available from federal sources to develop outdoor recreation facilities. 35 cents.

"Directory of Private Organizations Providing Assistance in Outdoor Recreation" -- Indicates the assistance available from private sources for planning a recreation business. 30 cents.



FHA OFFICE SETS RECORD IN COMMUNITY GROUP LOANS

The DeSoto County, Mississippi office of the Farmer's Home Administration has made a record 18 community loans, stimulating the county's economy with new jobs, new homes, an office building, a mop plant, and a laundry.

The DeSoto County office has made more community loans than any of the other 1,600 FHA county offices. Of the 18 loans, 16 were to finance water systems, one was for a recreation center and one for a fruit and vegetable growers cooperative.

The 16 water systems financed by \$1,645,000 in FHA loans will provide modern central water service to over 8,000 rural residents. Formerly they depended on cisterns, hauled water, or had shallow wells.



The Olive Branch Recreational Club, Inc. is building an 18-hole golf course, clubhouse, swimming pool, sports field, tennis courts, picnic facilities and nature trails with a \$305,000 FHA loan. More than 1,700 people are expected to use the facilities.

A \$55,000 FHA Economic Opportunity loan has boosted the income of 130 Tate and DeSoto county vegetable and fruit farmers. The group bought land and constructed market facilities with the money. The market also benefits consumers in the area who can buy in-season fruits and vegetables at reasonable prices.

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